

COMMUNITY UPDATE YOUR LEVY AT WORK



TOGETHER... BUILDING A GREENER SEATTLE

Where can you throw a googly, huck a disc, blast a frontside judo air and see children of all abilities smile at the playground? At Seattle Parks! Cricket fields, Ultimate Frisbee fields, skateparks and play area renovations are just some of the Levy projects already underway.

What park project is happening in your neighborhood?



PARKS & GREEN SPACES LEVY

“Creating community through people, parks, and programs.”



A LETTER *from* THE SUPERINTENDENT

Your involvement is already making a difference. By working together we have effectively improved neighborhoods throughout Seattle. In the first year of the Parks and Green Spaces Levy, we have completed the planning, design and construction of four play areas, two athletic fields, a new pathway into Magnuson Park and Chinook Beach Park shoreline restoration, added 2.53 acres to the park system and started the planning phase for more than 21 projects that will be in construction in 2010.

Your support and input is what makes this Levy successful. You were asked to participate early last year when the Parks and Green Spaces Levy launched, and the community enthusiastically embraced the invitation. The community attended more than 25 public meetings for funded projects, and provided creative direction and key user friendly contributions.

At the Bayview Play Area Renovation – at the request of the community – parks installed a piece of climbing equipment that looked like a natural rock. After your input adult exercise equipment was installed at Atlantic Street Park. And we included field markings for lacrosse and distance markings for track users after neighbors at the Delridge Playfield meeting told us that's what was needed.

The first project to be completed, the 65th Street path at Magnuson Park, offers a safe walking entrance to the park. We included a soft shoulder for the path, at the request of the community.

The Opportunity Fund offers another exciting chance for you to guide the Levy. The Parks and Green Spaces Levy includes a \$15 million Opportunity Fund for community-initiated park acquisition and development projects.

Thank you for your participation and again my hope is that you will continue to join me in helping shape the future of Seattle Parks.

Timothy Gallagher

Superintendent

Timothy.Gallagher@seattle.gov

visit us at seattle.gov/parks/levy/default.htm

“This Levy is helping Seattle deliver on its commitment to provide safe, accessible skate terrain for the estimated 20,000 skateboarders in this city....”

– Scott Shinn, from Parents for Skateparks



YOUR VISION IS IMPORTANT TO US

Your continued participation in planning for future projects is important. There are 21 additional projects currently in planning and design that will be in construction in 2010. These range from improvements at the Washington Park Arboretum to play area renovations to parks that will be developed over drinking water reservoir lids.

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and Seattle Parks and Recreation have been working together to provide parks on reservoir lids. Your vision and input on the West Seattle Reservoir and Maple Leaf Reservoir Park projects will have a significant impact to these new unique community parks. Please watch for a series of public meetings that will be held in 2010. The West Seattle Reservoir at Westcrest Park and the Maple Leaf Reservoir Park Project will be fabulous additions to the park system. As users of the parks, your creative input is essential in keeping our city vibrant.

For information about all Levy projects please visit: <http://seattle.gov/parks/levy/default.htm> or contact Karen O'Connor at 206-233-7929 or Karen.oconnor@seattle.gov.



“It was great to be involved in the Atlantic Street play area planning process. Parks listened to our needs and now we have a wonderful multigenerational park!”

– Amy Stelljes

Please continue to participate
and put your mark on
parks in Seattle.

THE PARKS AND GREEN SPACES LEVY IS A SIX-YEAR LEVY APPROVED BY SEATTLE VOTERS IN NOVEMBER 2008, AND TOGETHER WE HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT STRIDES DURING ITS FIRST YEAR.



“Ultimate is a great teaching tool. The officially marked fields that Parks are providing are not just great for the sport but also say to the kids that they are important too.”

— Coach at Asa Mercer Middle School

PROJECTS COMPLETED IN THE FIRST YEAR

From fossil-inlaid play equipment to a climbing rock to adult exercise stations, four play area projects have been planned, designed and constructed in 2009. These play areas are ready to spark the health and imagination of their neighbors.

- Atlantic Street Playground
- Bayview Playground
- Bhy Kracke Playground
- Brighton Playground

The celebration for the opening of Lower Woodland Park Fields #2 & #7 was applauded by all field users. These fields now accommodate soccer, men's and women's lacrosse and Ultimate Frisbee year round. An important goal for projects is to have minimal impact on our environment. We are happy that these new fields will help save 500,000 gallons of water per year.

- Lower Woodland Park Field #2
- Lower Woodland Park Field #7

Two unique projects completed in 2009 include the Magnuson Park Improvements and the Chinook Beach Park Renovation. A new pedestrian path at Magnuson creates safer and more enjoyable access to the park and waterfront. At Chinook Beach, the invasive species removal and native plantings are positive additions to the Lake Washington ecosystem utilized by juvenile salmon.

- Magnuson Park Improvements
- Chinook Beach Park Renovation

In September we celebrated a groundbreaking with a creative “ground chalking” event at Hubbard Homestead Park. This project will eliminate a parking lot and provide the Northgate neighborhood with a fabulous green space. Unique projects currently under construction:

- Children's PlayGarden-Garden House
- Hubbard Homestead-Northgate Park
- Camp Long Renovation
- John C. Little Sr. Play Area
- Queen Anne Blvd. Improvements
- Jefferson Park Expansion

ACQUISITION

Preserving open spaces and acquiring park land for future generations is a priority in this Levy. Parks has negotiated the purchase of an additional 2.58 acres which include:

- a site in the Me Kwa Mooks Natural Area, that restores it to a green hillside.
- a property on Admiral Way in the Duwamish Head Greenbelt that will add a green buffer along this major West Seattle arterial, where forest restoration is also underway.
- a parcel on Thornton Creek that completes acquisitions in a section along NE 105th Street and adds to the effort to assemble land on this valuable urban creek.
- a park boulevard on Bell Street that will increase the green connections in the city which was developed in partnership with other city departments.

In the Urban Parks category, \$24 million was allocated for purchase of land in 20 areas identified as being deficient in parks. Initial planning is underway in over half of these areas, with additional public outreach scheduled in early 2010.



“Funding from the Pro Parks Levy Opportunity Fund was key to creating this award winning park. Looking forward to seeing more great ideas come to life with the support of this fund.”

— Brian Ivaldi, Past Treasurer, Friends of Fremont Peak Park

OPPORTUNITY FUND

The Parks and Green Spaces Levy includes a \$15 million Opportunity Fund for community initiated projects. Seattle citizens and community groups are submitting nominations for the first round of projects. This is an excellent way to improve your City's parks system.

The application process involves two steps. First, a Proposal Letter must be received and then an application must be submitted. Proposal Letters are due by February 1, 2010 and the Application is due by April 2, 2010. Technical Workshops are scheduled in the first two weeks of January to assist in filling out the Proposal Letters and to answer questions.

ALL WORKSHOPS WILL BE FROM 6:30 – 8 P.M. AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS.

January 5, 2010 – Greenwood Branch Library, 8016 Greenwood Ave. N.

January 7, 2010 – High Point Community Center, 6920 34th Ave. SW.

January 12, 2010 – Park Board Room, 100 Dexter Ave. N.

January 14, 2010 – New Holly Learning Center, 7058 32nd Ave. S.

The process for deciding on Opportunity Fund projects continues throughout the year with community presentations, a public hearing and recommendations to the Mayor and City Council.

